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30 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Arthur T. LATTER

1. I met Latter at his apartment on 25 September for my first conversation with him since his return from Germany on 23 September. ZIPPER information had already suggested that Latter had been induced to return to his work with the German Foreign Office. It, therefore, came as no surprise when Latter disclosed, in narrative form, that he had reluctantly agreed to return to Bonn.

2. During his recent visit to Germany he had held extensive discussions with Hallstein, the Secretary of State in the Bonn Government, and had also converged with Mr. Ruess, President of the Federal Republic, for approximately 1 1/2 hours. The Foreign Office had agreed to grant Latter his lifelong pension - which also will continue after Latter's demise, for Mrs. Latter. In exchange, the Foreign Office and President Ruess had exerted what Latter called "the strongest moral pressure" to cause him to resume work in the Foreign Office. Latter explained to them that he was about to become an American citizen, that he had such a great number of American friends, and that he felt as if America was now his home. Further, he noted that the U.S. had treated him exceedingly well and that he had worked very closely with the State Department. Both President Ruess and Mr. Hallstein had stated candidly that they were pleased with Latter's closeness to the U.S. and commented that this would be highly valuable in assisting the Foreign Office to interpret U.S. attitudes. But the fact remained that Latter was a German and the German Government needed his services. After his talk with Ruess, Latter agreed to accept a position in the Foreign Office which would involve working as an advisor to Brentigan who heads the Eastern Division of the Foreign Office.

3. After having told the above to me, Latter was visibly relieved - although I had previously assured him that no ill feeling would result - whatever his decision might be. I reiterated that I would have similarly decided had I been in his position. I emphasized the fact that our relationships with him had always been exceedingly pleasant and I trusted that he was as well satisfied with our treatment of him as we were with his outstanding contribution to our effort. Further, I suggested that his return to Germany should not mean the end of our mutual relations; on the contrary, I hoped that he could be called upon in the future for advice and information at appropriate times.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(C) Foreign Relations ☐

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4. He replied that his knowledge and experience would always be at our command and that the sentiments that I had expressed were, in general, similar to his own. He stressed that President Huss had reminded him "not to annoy the Americans" before his departure.

5. I suggested that he should meet one of my superiors (I had in mind [] with whom I had already discussed this case) prior to his departure on or about 1 November. He stated that he would be happy to do this at our convenience.

6. We discussed the disposition of some Agency property which he has been using and agreed to terminate his contract effective 1 October and to cancel the lease of his office as of 1 November.

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